

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 09350 221450Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SY-05 MCT-01 EB-08
COME-00 /104 W

-----020431 221528Z /72

R 221320Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8338
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 9350

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, KE, UG
SUBJECT: AMIN SPEAKS OUT ON EFFECT OF MCKENZIE AFFAIR ON KENYAN-
UGANDAN RELATIONS

REF: NAIROBI 8252

1. DAILY NATION JUNE 22 GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO RADIO
UGANDA BROADCAST OF JUNE 21 WHICH QUOTED PRESIDENT AMIN TO
EFFECT THAT ENEMIES OF FREINDLY RELATIONS AND TRADE LINKS
BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA HAD UTILIZED BRUCE MCKENZIE'S
DEATH TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AMIN
REPORTEDLY STATED THAT SINCE MCKENZIE'S DEATH"...THE
POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
KENYA AND UGANDA APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SHATTERED." HE
ASSERTED THAT PRIOR TO DEATH MCKENZIE HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF KENYAN AND UGANDAN MINISTERS AS
FOLLOW ON TO FEBRUARY 8 MEETING IN KAMAPALA(SEE NAIROBI 2082
AND 2185), AND IMPLIED THAT THIS MEETING IS NOW OFF. AMIN
ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED MCKENZIE
ONE OF HIS BEST FRIENDS, AND THAT ENEMIES WILL NOT SUCCEED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 09350 221450Z

IN DISRUPTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CLOSE COOPERATION
THAT HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN PEOPLES OF KENYA AND
UGANDA.

2. AMIN'S REMARKS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER
REPORTEDLY RECEIVED FROM MCKENZIE'S WIDOW WHICH
CATEGORICALLY REJECTED NOTION THAT AMIN HAD BEEN

PERSONALLY AWARE OF PLAN TO KILL MCKENZIE. ACCORDING TO NATION QUOTING RADIO UGANDA, MRS. MCKENZIE'S LETTER TO AMIN STATED THAT "I FEEL THAT IF I CAN LET YOU KNOW THAT I, BEING HIS WIDOW, UTTERLY REJECT SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS IT MIGHT HELP SALVAGE SOME OF THE GOODWILL THAT I UNDERSTAND BRUCE WAS HELPING TO GENERATE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH I NOW FEAR IS IN DANGER OF BEING SHATTERED AS A REACTION TO HIS DEATH."

3. COMMENT: LITTLE REAL LIGHT HAS YET BEEN SHED ON PLANE CRASH WHICH TOOK LIVES OF MCKENZIE AND THREE OTHERS BEYOND CERTAINTY HERE THAT AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED BY EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PLANTED ON AIRCRAFT WHILE IT WAS IN UGANDA. PROMINENT LOCAL JOURNALIST HILARY N'GWENO TOLD EMBOFF A FEW DAYS AGO, HOWEVER, THAT IT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT BOB ASTLES, ONE OF AMIN'S CLOSEST ADVISORS, HAD TELEPHONED NAIROBI JUST AFTER AIRCRAFT'S ETA IN NAIROBI ON MAY 24 PURPORTEDLY TO ENSURE THAT MCKENZIE AND PARTY HAD ARRIVED SAFELY. THIS HAS LED TO SPECULATION HERE THAT ASTLES, IF NOT AMIN HIMSELF, WAS INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION FOR WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN PERSONAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL REASONS. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT MCKENZIE HAD BEEN MUSCLING IN ON "TERRITORY" ASTELS CONSIDERED HIS OWN. AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL, MCKENZIE HAD HOST OF CLOSE FRIENDS AT TOP LEVEL OF GOK WHO WERE OUTRAGED BY CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH. UGANDAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NAIROB 09350 221450Z

FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NEVER RESPONDED TO FORMAL KENYAN REQUEST OF MAY 26 TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENT AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, WHICH HAS EXACERBATED SUSCPIONS HERE REGARDING OFFICIAL UGANDAN COMPLICITY IN CRASH.

4. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT AMIN'S LATEST PROTESTATIONS MUST BE VIEWED. THE KENYAN DECISION IN EARLY FEBRUARY TO PROCEED WITH A RAPPROACHMENT WITH AMIN'S REGIME CAME ONLY AFTER CAREFULLY BALANCING THE DISTASTE FOR THE AMIN REGIME GENERALLY FELT HERE WITH PERCEIVED NEED TO GET BORDER STATE RELATIONSHIP BACK ON EVEN KEEL, AND TO REACH ACCOMMODATIONS ON IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS AND TRADE MATTERS AFFECTING THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AMIN REGIME'S MORAL REPUGNANCE AGAIN OUTWEIGHS IN GOK EYES PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED.

5. ONE FACTOR THAT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR IS MRS. MCKENZIE'S MOTIVATION IN WRITING HER LETTER, ASSUMING SHE DID SO. MCKENZIE HAD CONSIDERABLE BUSINESS INTERESTS IN UGANDA AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LETTER WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THEM.
LEMELLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB09350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780260-0997
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780630/aaaabagn.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c92bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NAIROBI 8252
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2248202
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIN SPEAKS OUT ON EFFECT OF MCKENZIE AFFAIR ON KENYAN- UGANDAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, KE, UG, (MCKENZIE, BRUCE), (ASTLES, BOB), (AMIN DADA, IDI)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c92bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014